

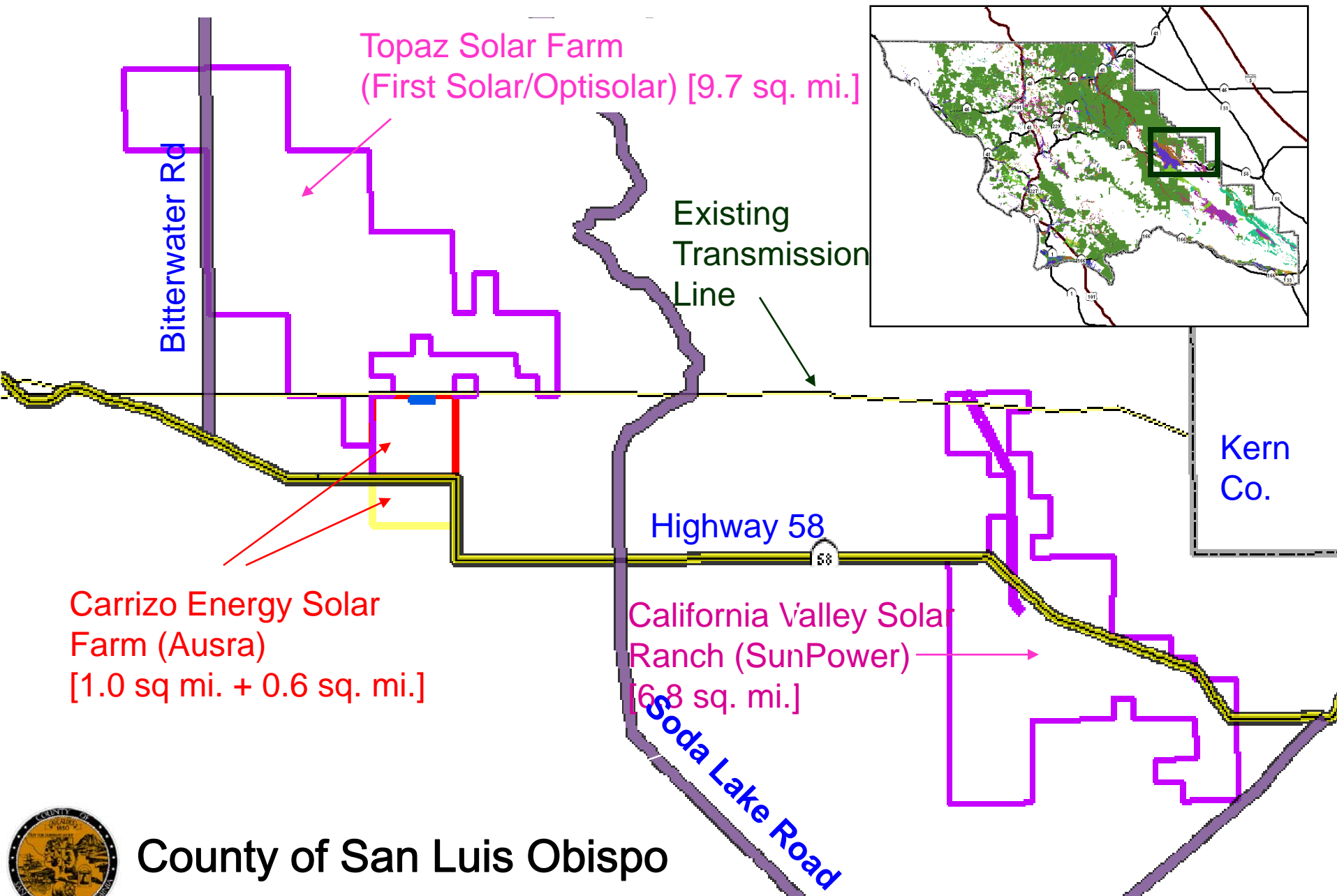
# Solar Power – A County Perspective

- Three Solar Plants – 1,000 Megawatts
  - Carrizo Energy (Ausra)
  - Topaz (First Solar/Optisolar)
  - California Valley (SunPower)



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# Solar Power in the Carrizo Plains



# Solar Power – A County Perspective

## ❖ Process Factors to Consider

- Type of Renewable (each has unique set of issues)
  - Solar Thermal (Water, noise, visual (height), land intensive)
  - Solar PV (very land intensive)
    - Efficiency range between 8 - 20+%; should reward more efficient technologies
  - Wind (visual [height], noise)



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# Solar Power – A County Perspective

## ❖ Process Factors to Consider

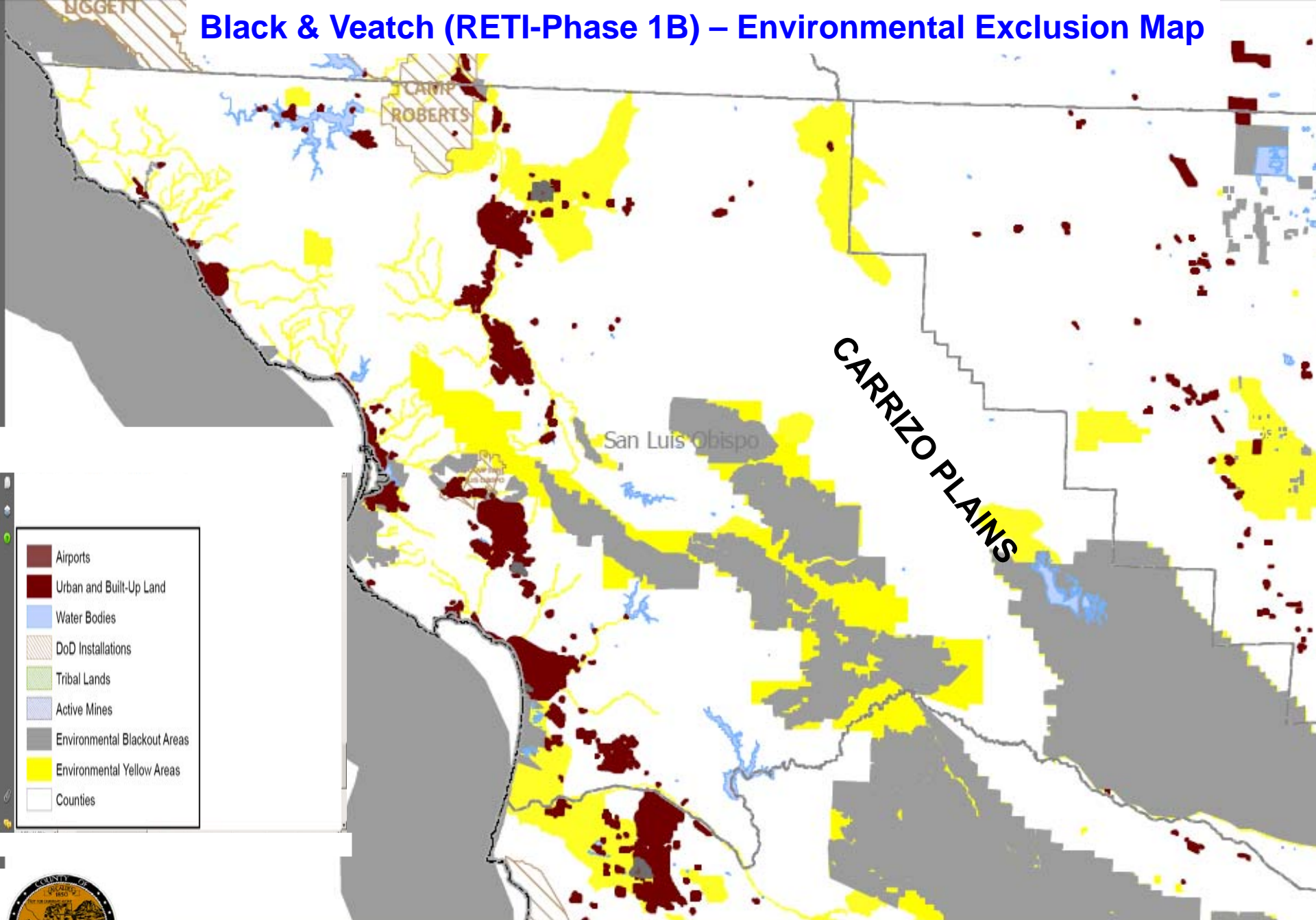
- Accuracy of Baseline data completed to date
  - RETI work – good start, need more
- More Detailed Constraint Mapping Needed
  - At “regional” levels with sufficient detail for individual projects
  - Evaluate cumulative effects of many plants together/ near transmission corridor
- Once constraint mapping completed, target least sensitive areas for future development



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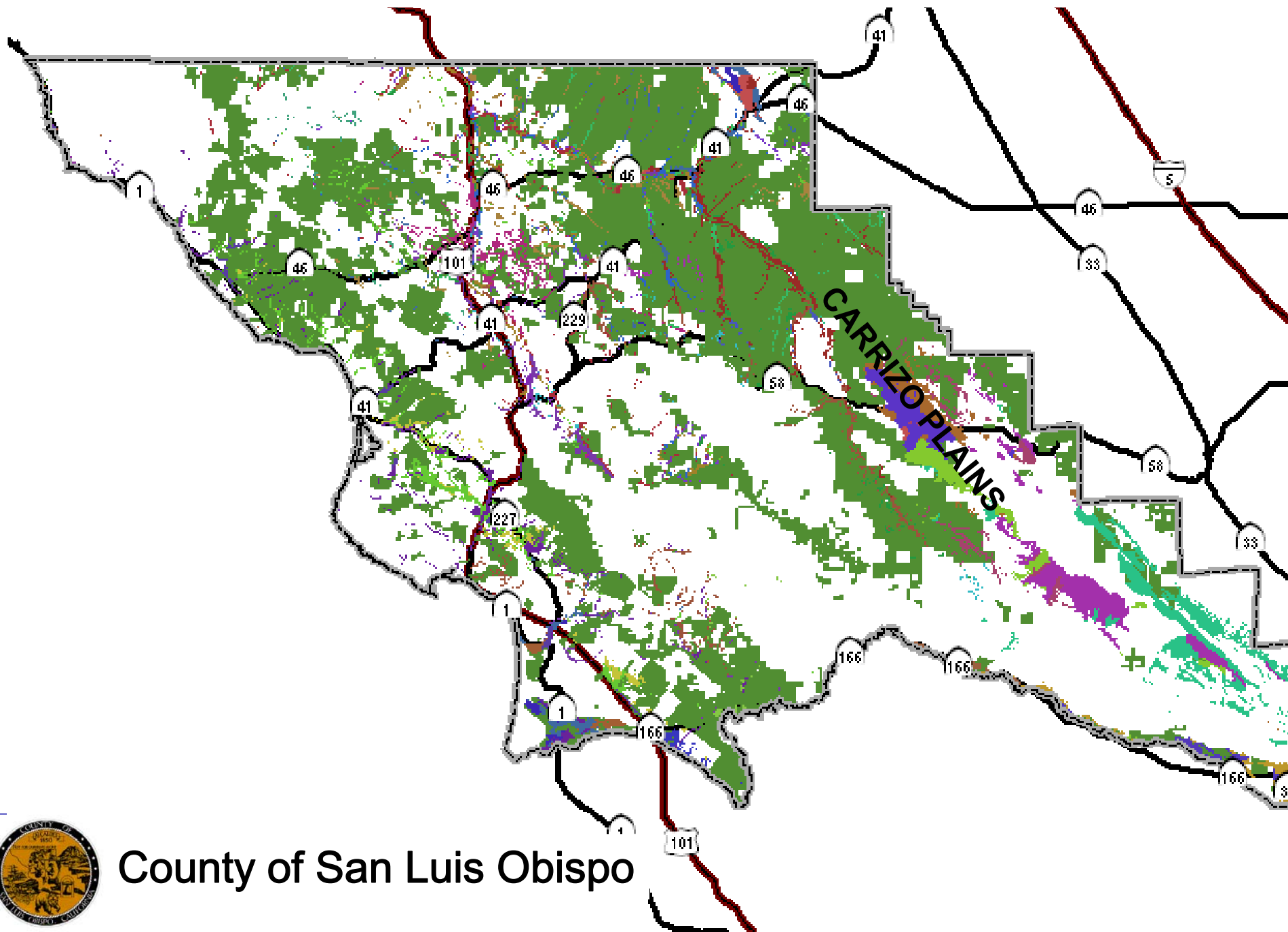


# Black & Veatch (RETI-Phase 1B) – Environmental Exclusion Map



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## County GIS - Williamson Act and Prime Soil Areas (colored areas)



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# Solar Power – A County Perspective

## ❖ Environmental Factors to Consider

- Biological Resources
  - Projects very large with extensive coverage – can cut off important wildlife migration movement areas (solar)
- Agriculture (Williamson Act vs. Soil Class)
- Water (solar thermal) – ID sustainability of water resources



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# Solar Power – A County Perspective

## ❖ Environmental Factors to Consider

- Visual/Neighborhood compatibility – highest quality natural areas should be ID'd and avoided; noise
- Public Services – should explore programs/ measures to offset fiscal impacts to public services (fire, roads, sheriff); modify AB64 to include county/city fiscal impact offset funding?
- Long Construction period (2.5 - 3 years)

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# Solar Power – A County Perspective

## ❖ Improving Permitting Efficiency

- Detailed constraint mapping - better project siting; shorten permit/EIR process
- Establish “Low Impact” performance standards to guide future development;
- Make state funding available (AB64?) for local staff to expedite permit process



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# Solar Power – A County Perspective

## ❖ Improving Permitting Efficiency

### ■ Biological Assessment

- Review process made more efficient
  - special consultation process with shortened timeframes for renewable projects
  - Provide agencies additional funding to expedite processing
  - Create larger mitigation bank/area developed as a result of constraint analysis
  - Establish/fund mitigation bank projects now and then be paid back as projects come in



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# Solar Power – A County Perspective

## ❖ Expediting Through County

- Encourage use of County's "pre-application" process (ID reports needed upfront and other info for better initial submittal; avoids missing seasonal "windows")
- Start EIR prior to project acceptance
- Use of contract help to provide focused project oversight, and reduce cumulative effect of small delays commonly encountered at each step
- Get commitment from applicant to expedite their responses to county requests



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# Solar Power – A County Perspective

## ❖ REAT – BMP Guidelines

- Develop rating system for each type of renewable (e.g., compare solar thermal vs. solar PV, or low efficiency PV to high-efficiency PV, etc.);
- Develop incentive program for most efficient use of resource/technology (least land needed, lowest water consumed, etc.)



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